

# **Iowa Collaboration for Youth Development Council**

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**

**Jessie Parker Building  
510 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Starkweather Room  
Des Moines, IA**

**June 26, 2019**

### **Present:**

Steve Michael, Chair, Department of Human Rights, for San Wong  
Jim Hennessey, Child Advocacy Board  
\*Kevin Drahos, Vice Chair, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council for Sibani Ram  
Jay Pennington, Iowa Department of Education  
Doug Wolfe, Iowa Department of Human Services  
Dale Woolery, Office of Drug Control Policy

### **Others Present:**

Krista Tedrow, Job Corps, Ottumwa  
Mark Douglas, Job Corps, Ottumwa  
Steve Reitan, LifeSkills Connection, Davenport  
Taylor Barry, CJJP, Iowa National Youth in Transition Database  
Sarah Fineran, CJJP  
Tracy Loynachan, CJJP  
Brienne Potts, CJJP, State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council  
Julie Rinker, CJJP  
Claire Yocom, CJJP AmeriCorps, Iowa Youth Congress  
\*Joined via phone

### **I. Introductions and Announcements**

Steve Michael welcomed those in attendance at 2:02 p.m. A quorum was not present. Introductions were made.

### **II. Approval of the Minutes from March 27, 2019 ICYD meeting**

The minutes were not approved due to lack of quorum.

### **III. State of Iowa Youth Advisory Committee (SIYAC) Update**

Kevin Drahos, Vice Chair, provided an overview of SIYAC. He reviewed the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter meeting which included officer elections and a service project with the Polk County Youth Conservation Corps at Jester Park. Orientation will be held in August. The first quarterly meeting will be held in September.

### **IV. Ottumwa Job Corps Center – Youth Opportunities**

Mark Douglas and Krista Tedrow provided information on the Ottumwa and Denison Job Corps Centers, a federally funded program that provides training and educational services to youth aged 16-24 who are at the poverty level and considered “under-resourced”. The age limit is waived for disabled youth.

Steve Reitan provided information on his company, LifeSkills Connections, which helps youth develop skills to be successful adults. His program is located in Davenport and plans to expand to Bettendorf as well as provide services throughout the state.

Discussion included barriers to participation in Job Corps. Tedrow reported that youth with criminal records may be eligible, depending upon circumstances. Youth under court supervision may not be eligible, although some have been accepted. Reitan noted the importance of collaboration with the courts, the youth, and services provided. Youth aged 14 may begin preparing for the application/admission process two years prior to their age of eligibility.

Tedrow provided information on the types of occupations, application/admission process, and number of graduates. There are approximately 81 students on a waitlist, most from out of state. Further discussion included names of juvenile judges, associations, and other contacts that could assist in expansion. Reitan noted the various types of college partnership programs that allow students to graduate with skills in welding, nursing, HVAC, and more.

Doug Wolfe noted the importance of Job Corps, as well as apprenticeships, military, and other public/private colleges that assist youth who are transitioning out of foster care.

Michael thanked them for the information. He noted the importance of giving kids opportunities as they transition to adulthood.

## **V. National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) – Update**

Taylor Barry reported that through her work with NYTD, she's found that many youth don't know how to get health insurance. This prompted her to ask about employment and provide information which led to the development of the Youth Resources website. The site hosts videos and links to resources focused on housing, employment, education, transportation, etc. She will add information about Job Corps and LifeSkills.

Barry referenced a handout summarizing youth input through the "Talking Wall". This project has expanded into several more group care facilities that house both child welfare and juvenile justice youth. She attended AMP camp and collected more feedback from foster care youth.

Wolfe reported that DHS has met federal compliance standards since 2011 that require collecting information on current and former foster care youth aged 17, 19, and 21.

Wolfe asked about a statewide repository for youth-centered information and evidence-based practices. Dale Woolery suggested "Your Life Iowa" through the Department of Public Health.

## **VI. Youth Offender Reentry**

Michael referenced the reentry schematic included in the meeting packet. The schematic was developed by Iowa State University through a Second Chance Act grant awarded to CJJP from the federal Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention. The reentry effort focuses on youth transitioning home from group care and is a collaborative effort amongst state agencies to provide job training/employment, education and health care coordination, and therapy as needed. He will request that information on Job Corps is included in the reentry materials.

## **VII. Other Business – Agency Updates**

Michael reported that HF766 passed and requires CJJP to seat a workgroup to review and make recommendations regarding the transfer of juvenile justice-related funds from the Department of Human Services to State Court Administration. Licensing would remain with DHS. Jim Hennessey expressed interest in serving on the workgroup.

## **VIII. Adjourn – Next meeting – Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00pm.**

There was no further discussion. The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Rinker  
Administrative Secretary  
Div. of Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning  
Iowa Department of Human Rights

